

May 4, 2000

## **Senator Reid Says Democrats Want No Extraneous Issues on ESEA Reauthorization**

Recent press reports have indicated that Democrats are so opposed to the Republican Educational Opportunities Act (ESEA reauthorization, S. 2) that they may try to derail the bill. Yet today on the Senate floor, Minority Whip Harry Reid signaled the Democrat leadership's desire to keep the debate focused on education [*Current Senate Proceedings*, 5/4/00, 14:46:40]:

**Mr. Reid:** What I wanted to say, I objected to the McCain amendment not because of the content of his amendment per se. If he wants to bring up the NCAA college ban at some subsequent time, that's his privilege. . .

**But one of the things I've tried to do following the direction of the Minority Leader, in consultation with the Majority Leader, is to keep this debate on this education bill on education.**

**And we've worked very hard on our side to keep other matters off this bill — Patients' Bill of Rights, prescription drugs, minimum wage, and all kinds of other things.**

**So I don't want anyone . . . to think that I'm doing this simply because it deals with NCAA betting on college. It's because we're trying to move this education bill along.**

**At some subsequent time on this bill or some other time when he offers that, I'll be prepared to do whatever is necessary to put my view forward. But I just wanted the record to reflect that it's not because of the content of his amendment. It's just an attempt to move education matters along on this bill. I withdraw any objection that I have.**

(That sound you hear is the cheering of disadvantaged students.)

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